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# A Newly Described Species of *Microlicia* (Melastomataceae) from Minas Gerais, Brazil

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**ABSTRACT.** Another species in *Microlicia* (Melastomataceae) is described and illustrated. *Microlicia obtusifolia* is known from the rocky slopes of Diamantina, Minas Gerais, Brazil. *Microlicia obtusifolia* Cogniaux ex R. Romero is distinguished from affined species (*M. pusilla* Cogniaux) by its obovate, 1- to 3-nerved leaves with obtuse apices and attenuate bases.

**Key words:** Brazil, "campo rupestre," endemic, highland vegetation, Melastomataceae, *Microlicia*, Minas Gerais.

The Neotropical genus *Microlicia* D. Don consists of approximately 170 species occurring mainly throughout central and eastern Brazil (Wurdack, 1993) with ca. 100 endemic species in the states of Minas Gerais, Goiás, and Bahia. During preparation of a treatment of *Microlicia* sect. *Pseudomicrolicia* Cogniaux, two specimens were found with an unpublished name that had been annotated by A. Cogniaux on the label.

***Microlicia obtusifolia*** Cogniaux ex R. Romero, sp. nov. TYPE: Brazil. Minas Gerais: Diamantina, subida para o Cruzeiro, 11 Jan. 1963, A. P. Duarte & G. M. Barroso 7858 (holotype, HB; isotype, NY). Figure 1.

Suffrutex 50–60 cm altus. Caulis subteres, glaber. Ramuli primum punctato-glandulosi demum glabriusculi. Laminae sessiles vel brevibus petiolis, erectae, obovatae, apice obtuso, base attenuata, margine integerrima raro inconspicuo-crenulata, supra et subtus impresso-punctatae, 1–3-nerves. Hypanthium trichomatibus glandulosis pedicellaribus ad apices. Petala magentea, apice curto-acuminato. Ovarium 3-loculare.

*Microliciae pusillae* maxime affinis sed praecipue lamina folii obovata, apice obtuso, base attenuata diversa.

Erect subshrub, 50–60 cm tall, branching dichotomously or trichotomously, young branches fastigiate, quadrangular, glutinous, covered with sessile glands, older branches brown, quadrangular, without leaves at the base, leaf scars conspicuous, glabrescent. Leaves sessile or with short flattened petiole to 0.5 mm, imbricate, erect, plane, blades

4–7 × 2–4 mm, obovate, apex obtuse, base attenuate and slightly constricted, margin entire or inconspicuously crenulate, hyaline, covered with sessile glands on both surfaces, glutinous or not, 1- to 3-nerved, with inconspicuous lateral veins. Flowers 5-merous, sessile or almost sessile, solitary, terminal or grouped in the branch apex. Hypanthium 2.0–2.5 × ca. 2.5 mm, campanulate, with stalked and sessile glands, on the apex with dense stalked glands, eventually with caducous glands. Calyx lobes 3.5–5.5 mm long, lanceolate, apex acute, apiculate or not, covered with stalked glands. Petals 8–9 × ca. 6 mm, magenta, obovate, apex asymmetrically acute, briefly acuminate, glabrous. Stamens 10, dimorphic. Larger stamens 5, filaments 3.5–4.0 mm long, purple, thecae 2.0–2.5 mm long, purple, oblong, not corrugate, with rostrum ca. 0.5 mm long, white, prolonged connective 3.0–3.3 mm, purple, with ventral appendage ca. 1 mm long, yellow, expanded and truncate; smaller stamens 5, filaments 3.5–4.0 mm long, purple, thecae 1.5–2.0 mm long, yellow, oblong, not corrugate, with rostrum 0.2–0.3 mm long, prolonged connective 1.2–1.5 mm, yellow, with ventral appendage 0.3–0.5 mm long, obtuse. Ovary superior, 3-locular, glabrous; style ca. 6 mm long, filiform, glabrous, stigma punctiform. Capsule ca. 3 × 3–5 mm, greenish brown, globose, the superior portion (almost 1/3) of the mature ovary not covered by the hypanthium and loculicidally dehiscent in the upper part. Seeds 0.6–0.7 × ca. 0.3 mm, numerous, slightly curved, foveolate.

*Microlicia obtusifolia* is endemic to the region around Diamantina, Minas Gerais, Brazil, on rocky slopes. According to specimen labels, this species flowers in January and April, and fruits in March and November.

*Microlicia obtusifolia* resembles *M. pusilla* Cogniaux, which occurs sympatrically in Diamantina. Both have dense stalked glands in the hypanthium apex and in the calyx lobes. The obovate leaves with an obtuse apex and attenuate, slightly constricted base with 1 to 3 veins distinguish *M. ob-*

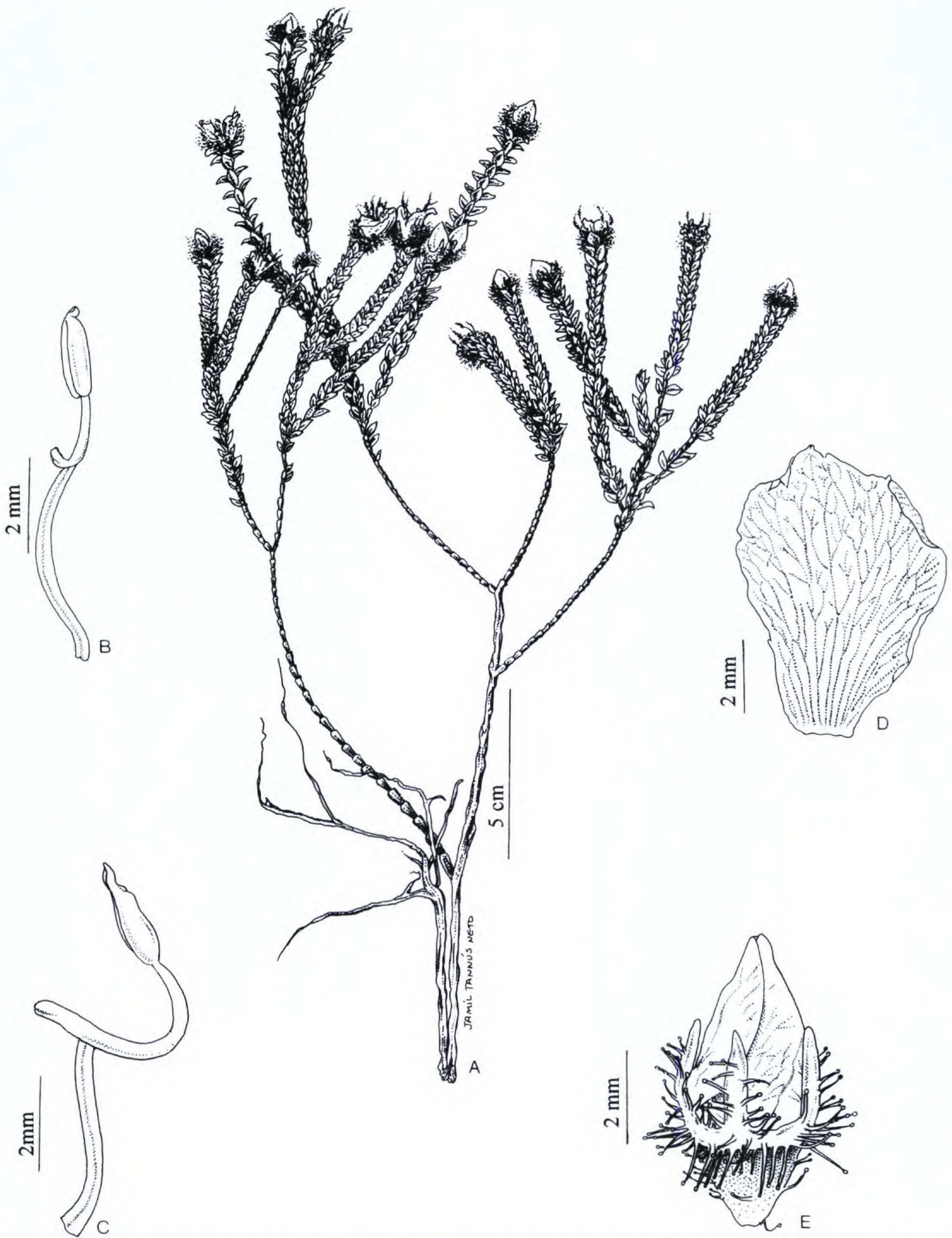


Figure 1. *Microlicia obtusifolia* Cogniaux ex R. Romero. —A. Habit. —B. Lateral view of small stamen. —C. Lateral view of large stamen. —D. Petal. —E. Bud, hypanthium, and calyx lobes. Drawn from the holotype (Duarte & Barroso 7858).

*tusifolia* from *M. pusilla*. The latter has ovate to ovate-lanceolate leaves with an acute apex and rounded base with only one central vein. In *M. obtusifolia*, the leaves are larger (4–7 × 2–4 mm) than in *M. pusilla* (2–4 × 1–2 mm).

This species was recognized by A. Cogniaux based on Glaziou collections (*Glaziou 19206* as *Microlicia obtusifolia* and *Glaziou 19207* as *Microlicia obtusifolia* var. *microphylla*), but these names were never published by him. Later Glaziou (1908) effectively published Cogniaux's name *Microlicia obtusifolia* and the variety *microphylla*, but invalidly, in his list for central Brazil. This publication by Glaziou was not valid due to the absence of a diagnosis, referring to Article 32 of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (Greuter et al., 2000). After the author's examination of Glaziou's collections (*Glaziou 19206*, *19207* cited herein as paratypes) in BM, K, P, and W, it is quite clear that Cogniaux recognized this new species based on material at Brussels, although these sheets were not seen by the author. Glaziou further wrote in sched. on *Glaziou 19206* "*Microlicia obtusifolia* Cogn. ined. ex numero" (seen on sheets at K, P, R), and on *Glaziou 19207* the name "*Microlicia obtusifolia* Cogn." (as seen on sheets at BM, K, P, R).

*Paratypes*. BRAZIL. **Minas Gerais**: Diamantina, Serra dos Crystaes, 4 Apr. 1892, *Glaziou 19206* (K, P, R); Serra dos Crystaes a Diamantina, 4 Apr. 1892, *Glaziou 19207* (BM, K, P, R, US); Serra dos Cristaes, 4 Apr. 1892, *Schwacke 7866* (W); Diamantina, Sentinela, 8 Dec. 1937, *Mello Barreto 9623* (HUFU); ca. 12 km SW of Diaman-

tina, 18 Jan. 1969, *H. S. Irwin et al. 22161* (B, P); ca. 12 km SW of Diamantina, rocky slopes with soil-filled pockets and crevices, 19 Jan. 1969, *H. S. Irwin et al. 22198* (NY, US); Biribiri, 27 Nov. 1992, *J. R. Stehmann s.n.* (BHCB); estrada Diamantina–Gouveia, ca. 12 km SW de Diamantina, 30 Mar. 2001, *R. Romero & J. N. Nakajima 6068* (HUFU, MO); Santa Luzia do Rio das Velhas, *Schwacke s.n.* (RB), *s.n.* (OUPR).

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